

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,321

Examiner

Clara Yang

Applicant(s)

HASEGAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 09/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 03/21/2006.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT and REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas J. Christensen, Reg. No. 35,480, on 7 and 10 November 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

- The last limitation of claim 8 (i.e., "a coil antenna used to transmit the transponder-driving radio wave, the coil antenna being arranged adjacent to the operation switch") has been replaced with "a coil antenna used to transmit the transponder-driving radio wave, the coil antenna being arranged around the push button switch."
- Claim 9 is to be replaced with the following:

9. A method for operating a push button switch to drive an actuator, wherein the actuator is enabled to be driven when an ID code transmitted from a transponder of a portable device matches a predetermined ID code, the transponder receiving a transponder-driving radio wave that generates electromotive force used to transmit the ID code, the method comprising:

operating the push button switch, which has a coil antenna that outputs the transponder-driving radio wave and is arranged around the push button switch, while holding the portable device in a vicinity of the push button switch.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - Regarding claims 1, 5, and 7, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a switch device that transmits a transponder-driving radio wave, which causes a transponder to generate electromotive force for transmitting an ID code, and comprises (a) a push button switch operated by an operator, and (b) a coil antenna that generates the transponder-driving radio wave, the coil antenna being arranged around the push button switch.
 - Regarding claim 6, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a switch device comprising (a) a push button switch having an operational surface operated by an operator; (b) a switch holder having a ring that surrounds the push button's

Art Unit: 2612

operational surface; and (c) a coil antenna that transmits a transponder-driving radio wave, the coil antenna being arranged near the push button's operational surface and in the switch holder's ring.

- Regarding claim 8, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a security system comprising (a) a push button switch operated by an operator, (b) a request signal output unit, (c) a portable device including a transponder that transmits a transponder signal including a first ID code, the security system enabling an actuator to be driven when the first ID code transmitted from the transponder matched a predetermined second ID code, wherein the security system transmits a transponder-driving radio wave that causes the transponder to generate electromotive force for transmitting the first ID code, the portable device transmitting an ID code signal including a third ID code in response to the request signal transmitted from the request signal output unit, (d) a first determination unit, (e) a first control unit, (f) a second determination unit, (g) a second control unit, and (h) a coil antenna that generates the transponder-driving radio wave, the coil antenna being arranged around the push button switch.
- Regarding claim 9, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a method comprising operating a push button switch, which has a coil antenna that outputs a transponder-driving radio wave and is arranged around the push button switch, while holding a portable device in the vicinity of the push button switch.

The term "around" is considered to mean "on all sides of" or "so as to encircle or enclose," as defined by the 10th edition of *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clara Yang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3062. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00 PM.


Art Unit: 2612

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CY

13 November 2006


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600